(b) In order to facilitate implementation of compulsory hallmarking for all gold jewellery, government has launched a scheme for setting up of Assaying/Hallmarking Centres for gold jewellery with central assistance in 35 identified districts by providing one time financial assistance @ 15% of cost of machinery & equipment subject to maximum of Rs. 15 lakhs per center. The maximum limit for financial assistance has subsequently been enhanced to 30% of cost of machinery & equipment subject to maximum of Rs. 30 Lakhs per centre for locations in the North East and special category states.

Effect of global warming in Assam and Bengal

468. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that today Tibet is becoming warmer day by day and as a result thereof there can be a flood in Brahmaputra river adversely affecting Assam;

(b) how far it would have adverse effects on agricultural production in Assam and West Bengal and particularly tea and Jute; and

(c) what efforts are being made by Government for the protection of the population and agricultural production and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The summary for Policy makers by Working Group I of the The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Fourth Assessment Report, released recently hints at retreating glaciers since 1960s but with an increasing speed since 1990 over the Asian high mountain region in general. However there is no specific indication about Tibet in particular in this summary. In view of this, it is premature at this juncture to comment about the impact of warmer temperatures in Tibet on floods in Brahmputra river and consequently on population and agricultural production, particularly on tea and Jute.